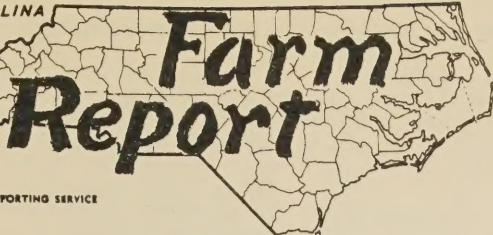


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NORTH CAROLINA

Reserve



QUESTIONS PERTINENT TO THIS ISSUE

1. DISCUSS THE JUNE 1 GENERAL CROP CONDITION.
2. WHAT IS THE CURRENT WHEAT PRODUCTION ESTIMATE?
3. HOW DOES MAY MILK PRODUCTION THIS YEAR COMPARE WITH PRECEDING YEAR?
4. WHAT IS THE ESTIMATED SIZE OF THE 1950 PEACH CROP?
5. DISCUSS THE OUTLOOK FOR VARIOUS TRUCK CROPS.
6. WHAT IS THE PROSPECTIVE IRISH POTATO PRODUCTION?
7. COMPARE MAY BROILER OPERATIONS WITH APRIL.
8. SUMMARIZE MAY WEATHER CONDITIONS.
9. WHY DID EGG PRODUCTION DECLINE IN MAY?

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No. 63

RALEIGH, N. C.

JUNE 15, 1950

JUNE 1, 1950 GENERAL FARM REPORT

JUNE 1 CROP OUTLOOK MUCH IMPROVED

Weather conditions as of June 1 were generally good throughout the State. Rainfall during May was normal or slightly greater than normal in most areas and as a result crops were much improved over May 1 prospects. Moisture supplies are now adequate for immediate needs in all areas.

Wheat and rye prospects improved during the month. The June 1 forecast of wheat production was 3 percent above the May 1 estimate and that for rye was up about 15 percent. The first forecast of the season indicates a 1950 oats crop about 4 percent larger than last year and a barley crop about 7 percent below that produced in 1949. May rains brought hay crops out of the retarded stage which developed during the very dry month of April and all hay crops were in better than average condition on June 1. The first cutting of alfalfa has been "bound" and a second cutting is ready. Harvesting of other early hay grasses is in progress. Frequent rain during May resulted in the usual field losses. Pasture conditions were 10 points above average for this date. Peach prospects remained unchanged with an expected total crop 83 percent below average and 74 percent less than production last year.

(Continued on Page 4)

N. C. WHEAT PROSPECTS IMPROVE

Wheat production prospects in North Carolina improved during May. On the basis of June 1 conditions, total production is now forecast at 6,015,000 bushels, which is 201,000 bushels more than the estimate as of May 1. A crop of 6,015,000 bushels compares with 5,785,000 bushels produced in 1949 and the 10-year average production of 6,809,000 bushels.

It is estimated that 401,000 acres of wheat will be harvested as compared with 445,000 acres in 1949 and the 1939-48 average of 450,000 acres.

(Continued on Page 2)

PEACH PROSPECTS POOR

The June 1 forecast of peach production, based on reports from peach growers throughout the state, is placed at 365,000 bushels. This is the same as the May 1 estimate and represents the second smallest crop since estimates were begun in the year 1909. In 1943 late spring freezes cut the state's peach crop to a mere 252,000 bushels. The largest crop of record was 3,167,000 bushels harvested by growers in 1941.

The U. S. crop is forecast at 56,151,000 bushels, three-fourths of last year's production, and four-fifths of average. The peach crop is short everywhere except in California, where clingstones - the canning crop - are nearly a third above average and freestones are a seventh below average. Other exceptions are the northeast where the crop is about average and Michigan and Missouri where it is slightly above average.

Next fall's turkey outlook indicates supplies will be near the high '49 level.

RECORD MAY MILK PRODUCTION

Production of Milk on North Carolina farms during May is estimated at 158 million pounds, which was record high for the month. Production during May of this year exceeded May 1949 by 3.9 percent and was 19.7 percent above the 1939-48 May average production of 132 million pounds.

There were an estimated 374,000 milk cows on farms during May, the same as April, but 17,000 more than May a year ago. Production per cow in herds during May averaged 422 pounds compared with 385 pounds during April and 426 pounds during May of 1949.

The increase in total milk production is the result not only of an increase in the number of milk cows but also increased production per cow. In herds kept by crop reporters, milk cows produced an average of 16.1 pounds of milk per day on June 1 compared with the June 1 1939-48 average of 13.7 pounds per cow. Improved pastures, better feeding and management prac-

(Continued on Page 2)

UNITED NATIONS REPRESENTATIVES STUDY CROP ESTIMATES



During May Dr. Tang of China and Dr. Rose-Ugarte of Peru, now with the United Nations, spent several days studying North Carolina's Agricultural Estimates methods, looking to usages elsewhere. Above they are shown at the Iredell Test Farm with Superintendent Wade Hendricks at the left.

RYE PRODUCTION UP

June 1 indications point to a yield of 12.0 bushels of rye per harvested acre in North Carolina. This is 1.5 bushels above the yield last year and 1.0 bushels greater than the 10-year average. If current yield prospects from the 17,000 acres for harvest materialize it will mean a total production of 204,000 bushels. Total production in 1949 was 200,000 bushels from 19,000 acres. The state's average production during the 10-year period from 1939 to 1948 is 389,000 bushels while the average acreage is 36,000.

For the Nation, a production of 22,446,000 bushels of rye is currently forecast. This compares with last year's crop of 18,697,000 bushels and the 10-year average of 32,155,000 bushels.

BROILER OPERATIONS DECLINE

The number of chicks placed with commercial producers in the Chatham-Wilkes Commercial Broiler Areas during May totaled 1,745,000. This was a decrease of 2 percent from April placements but an increase of 8 percent over placements made during May of last year.

Of the total, 1,027,000 chicks were placed in the Chatham Area and 718,000 were placed in the Wilkes Area.

Egg settings in the two areas totaled 2,607,000 during the month, an increase of almost 5 percent over the number of eggs set during the preceding month.

Hatchings during May totaled 1,975,000 chicks, 11 percent below the number of chicks hatched during April. Of the total, 1,245,000 chicks were hatched in the Chatham Area and 730,000 in the Wilkes Area.

N. C. WHEAT PROSPECTS (Continued)

Conditions as of June 1 indicate a yield of 15.0 bushels per acre. This compares with a yield of 13.0 bushels in 1949 and the 10-year average yield of 15.1 bushels.

General rains which fell over the state around May 1 were primarily responsible for the improvement in the condition of wheat. Freezing weather in April damaged much of the crop, however, such damage was much less severe than last year.

Total U. S. wheat production is forecast at 710,156,000 bushels as of June 1. This estimate is also greater than the estimate on May 1. The current forecast of the U. S. crop compares with 901,688,000 bushels produced last year and the 10-year average production of 758,821,000 bushels.

EGG PRODUCTION DOWN SEASONALLY

Production of eggs on North Carolina farms during May totaled 119 million. This is a decrease of 7 million eggs compared with April production, but one million more than May a year ago.

The decrease in egg production during May is attributed both to a decreased rate of lay and a reduction in the number of layers. The rate of lay in May was estimated at 1,680 eggs per 100 layers as compared with 1,710 eggs per 100 layers in April.

It is estimated that 7,088,000 layers were on farms during May as compared with 7,356,000 in April and 7,008,000 in May of 1949. The reduction in the number of layers during May as compared with April is the result of culling and the sale of breeding flocks.

OATS PRODUCTION PROSPECTS ABOVE AVERAGE

Prospects for the North Carolina 1950 oats crop are fairly good in most areas of the State. Total production as of June 1, is forecast at 11,500,000 bushels. This compares with 11,100,000 bushels produced in 1949 and the 10-year average production of 8,417,000 bushels.

Generally, the crop made rapid progress upon the receipt of ample moisture around May 1. The crop also recovered from freeze damage to a greater extent than anticipated earlier in the season.

June 1 conditions indicate an oats crop of 1,380,032 bushels for the United States. This 4.3 percent more than the 1949 crop and 8.3 percent more than the 1939-48 average production.

BARLEY PRODUCTION DOWN

A production of 840,000 bushels is in prospect for North Carolina's barley crop. This estimate is based largely on the prospective planted acreage reported in March and the current condition of the crop. Generally, farmers over the state expect fairly good yields. The crop is still showing signs of damage received from late freezes; however, the condition of the crop reflected some improvement as a result of favorable weather during May. Production this year is expected to be about 7 percent short of 1949 but about 2 percent above the 1939-48 average.

For the United States, production is now set at 278,536,000 bushels. This is about 17 percent above last year and about 10 percent below the 10-year average.

IRISH POTATO PROSPECTS IMPROVE

Reports from commercial early Irish potato growers in North Carolina as of June 1 indicate a production of 4,560,000 bushels. This production would mean an average yield of 190 bushels per acre from the state's 24,000 acres of commercial potatoes. Production prospects are considerably better than a month earlier due to improved weather conditions.

In 1949 there were 5,040,000 bushels produced in the state at an average yield of 210 bushels per acre from 24,000 acres. The average production for the 10-year period (1939-48) is 5,182,000 bushels, resulting in an average yield of 154 bushels. The commercial acreage for the 10-year period averaged 33,750 acres.

The California commercial early crop is currently expected to produce 30,400,000 bushels, comparing with 30,030,000 bushels produced in 1949 and the 10-year average of 19,701,000 bushels. California's commercial acreage is estimated at 76,000 for this year. This compares with 66,000 acres harvested in 1949 and the 10-year average 55,200 acres.

Total production of late spring commercial early Irish potatoes in the United States is estimated at 40,823,000 bushels from 150,000 acres. This compares with a total production in 1949 of 40,731,000 bushels from 138,500 acres and the 10-year average production of 33,461,000 bushels from an average of 177,010 acres.

Harvesting of North Carolina's commercial early Irish potato crop is now under way in all areas and is expected to continue until about July 10.

MILK PRODUCTION (Continued)

tices and improved breeding stock are major factors responsible for the increased production per cow.

CONDITION OF HAY CROPS AND PASTURES ABOVE AVERAGE

The condition of "all hay" as of June 1 was reported as 81 percent. This compares with the 1939-48 average condition of 79 percent.

The condition of hay crops on June 1 was much better than a month earlier. General rains throughout the state around May 1 brought relief from dry weather which extended through most of April. Following these rains most hay crops made rapid recovery and growth.

The condition of pastures improved during May. Pasture condition on June 1 was reported as 88 percent as compared with 78 percent on May 1. The 10-year average June 1 condition of pastures is 78 percent.

TRUCK CROPS OUTLOOK

CUCUMBERS: The condition of North Carolina's fresh market cucumber crop as of June 1 points to a production of 518,000 bushels, or an average yield of 75 bushels per acre from the estimated 6,900 acres. Last year's production amounted to 539,000 bushels from 7,700 acres for an average yield of 70 bushels per acre. Average production and acreage during the 10-year period (1939-48) was 367,000 bushels and 4,810 acres, respectively.

For the late spring group of States, a production of 2,049,000 bushels is in prospect for this year. This compares with last year's production of 2,261,000 bushels and the 10-year average of 1,774,000 bushels.

SNAP BEANS: Production from North Carolina's late spring snap bean crop for fresh market is presently estimated at 410,000 bushels. This compares with 450,000 bushels produced in 1949 and a 10-year average of 399,000 bushels. Harvesting of the crop is now in full swing in the principal producing areas. Growers report that yields on the earliest acreage are considerably below average due to unfavorable weather earlier in the season.

Total production for the late spring group of States is now set at 672,000 bushels, comparing with 818,000 bushels in 1949 and 720,000 bushels for the 10-year average.

GREEN PEPPERS: Reports from pepper growers in North Carolina as of June 1 indicate that 3,600 acres of green peppers will be available for harvest this year, or the same as the 1949 harvested acreage. Current prospects point to a production of 468,000 bushels, for an average yield of 130,000 bushels per acre.

Total production for the early summer group of States, including North Carolina, is now estimated at 920,000 bushels from 6,500 acres. This production compares with 966,000 bushels produced in 1949 and a 10-year average of 716,000 bushels.

TOMATOES: Preliminary reports from commercial tomato growers in North Carolina show 500 acres of tomatoes for harvest, or 11 percent above the 1949 harvested acreage. The condition of the crop as of June 1 points to a production of 38,000 bushels. This compares with 29,000 bushels produced in 1949 and the 10-year average of 62,000 bushels.

Total acreage for the early summer group of States is estimated at 28,800 acres, or about 13 percent below the 33,040 acres harvested last year and 23 percent less than the 10-year average of 37,320 acres. A production of 4,275,000 bushels is in prospect for this group of States this year. This compares with a production of 5,202,000 bushels in

1949 and a 10-year average production of 5,297,000 bushels.

STRAWBERRIES: Production from North Carolina's 2,600 acres of mid-spring strawberries is now estimated at 156,000 crates, or 60 crates per acre. This year's production compares with 175,000 crates harvested last year from 2,500 acres and the 10-year average production of 341,000 crates from an average of 3,820 acres. Harvesting of the crop is practically over now except for a few light sales which should continue until about June 15 provided weather conditions continue cool.

Total production in the mid-spring group of States is now set at 3,987,000 crates from 53,660 acres. Last year production from the mid-spring crop of 47,830 acres totaled 3,461,000 crates.

CABBAGE: Estimates as of June 1 place production from North Carolina's 2,600 acres of late spring cabbage at 13,000 tons - a yield of 5.0 tons per acre. Last year's production was 13,600 tons from 2,100 acres.

Total production in the late spring group of States is estimated at 62,200 tons. This compares with 72,400 tons produced in 1949 and an average 10-year production of 63,100 tons.

CASH RECEIPTS FROM FARM MARKETINGS DECLINE

Farmers in North Carolina received almost 18.2 million dollars in March from the sale of crops, livestock and livestock products. Of the total cash receipts, livestock and livestock products accounted for 11 million dollars or 60.4 percent.

Total receipts were up 7.5 percent from the February total but 26.1 percent below cash receipts from farm marketings during March of last year.

Total cash receipts from farm marketings in the state from January through March amounted to 54.8 million dollars compared with 75.9 million dollars during the same period a year ago.

Receipts from crops dropped from 45 million dollars to 27 million dollars while livestock receipts at 27.6 million dollars during the first three months of this year were off 3.3 million dollars from total receipts during the first quarter of 1949.

For the United States, farmers' cash receipts from farm marketings in March of this year totaled over 1.6 billion dollars - 3 percent more than the February total but 14 percent below receipts in March of last year. Prices received by farmers averaged slightly lower than in February and about 10 percent under prices a year ago.

TOTAL U. S. FARM EMPLOYMENT LESS THAN LAST YEAR

Total U. S. farm employment estimated at 11,525,000 for the week of May 21-27 was 3 percent less than a year earlier. A little more than half of the over 400,000 decrease was made up of family workers. Seasonally, farm employment increased about the usual amount from a month earlier. Compared with a month earlier, family workers increased 5 percent while the number of hired workers was a fourth larger.

Farm operators in North Carolina were putting in an average of 11.1 hours per day at farm work on about June 1. This compares with 11.2 hours on the comparable date a year ago. Hired farm workers in North Carolina were working an average of 9.3 hours per day as compared with 9.6 hours last year on or about June 1.

SHORT PEAR CROP FORECAST

North Carolina's 1950 pear crop is forecast at 110,000 bushels, based on reports from growers as of June 1. This is 15 percent below the 130,000 bushels harvested last year and 61 percent less than the 10-year average of 280,000 bushels. This is the smallest crop since 1943 when 71,000 bushels were produced.

U. S. production - at 27,914,000 bushels - is 23 percent below the record large 1949 production of 36,404,000 bushels and 8 percent below average.

LIVESTOCK PROSPECTS FAVORABLE

Generally, the price prospects for farmers who expect to market livestock this summer are favorable.

Prices for barrows, gilts and well-finished cattle are expected to rise, with the peaks likely in late summer. The fall drop for hogs is likely to be at least average; that for top cattle moderate.

Stocker and feeder cattle and lower grades of slaughter steers probably will decline. However, strength in prices of well-finished steers may be delaying their seasonal downturn.

Seasonal declines also are in prospect for sheep and lambs, though they will remain relatively high.

From mid-April to mid-May, prices of all classes of meat animals, except calves and ewes, have trended upward. So has the price of meat at retail. This indicates a strengthening in the consumer demand for meat, the first since the summer of 1948.

FARM REPORT

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JUNE 15, 1950

FARM REPORT

PAGE 4

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER DECLINES

Commercial slaughter of livestock in North Carolina during April as compared with March slaughter declined for all species except sheep and lambs. Slaughter of cattle and calves dropped significantly. Compared with April of last year, however, cattle and hog slaughter increased, calf slaughter declined and sheep and lambs remained unchanged.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, APRIL 1949 AND 1950 a/

SPECIES	NORTH CAROLINA				UNITED STATES			
	NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT		NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT	
	1949 b/	1950	1949 b/	1950	1949 b/	1950	1949 b/	1950
	THOUS. HEAD		THOUS. LBS.		THOUS. HEAD		THOUS. LBS.	
CATTLE	5.3	6.0	4,279	4,907	1,361	1,323	1,307,144	1,264,901
CALVES	7.3	5.4	1,110	873	930	834	161,463	154,869
HOGS	24.0	30.0	5,352	6,699	4,734	5,221	1,123,020	1,222,402
SHEEP & LAMBS	.1	.1	9	6	764	922	73,047	91,295

a/ Includes slaughter under Federal Inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter; excludes farm slaughter.
 b/ Revised.

JUNE 1 CROP OUTLOOK (Continued)

Egg production on farms during May this year was about 1 percent above the previous year. Production of milk on farms during May was about 4 percent greater than for the same month last year.

Tar Heel growers have practically completed transplanting of their flue-cured tobacco crops. Most counties had ample supplies of good plants for local needs. Transplanting of tobacco to fields started a little later than usual, but favored by very good setting conditions and adequate plants the job was completed about on schedule. Stands and growth are generally good.

The cotton crop is a little late in some sections due to an adverse planting season. However, the crop is "catching up" as a result of a month of favorable moisture conditions, although temperatures have been a little on the cool side part of the time. Boll weevils are present in record numbers and it will take the full efforts of the growers plus cooperation from Mother Nature to hold the boll weevil "take" below record proportions this year.

Corn is being "laid-by" in eastern areas. Stands are mostly good and the crop is growing out rapidly.

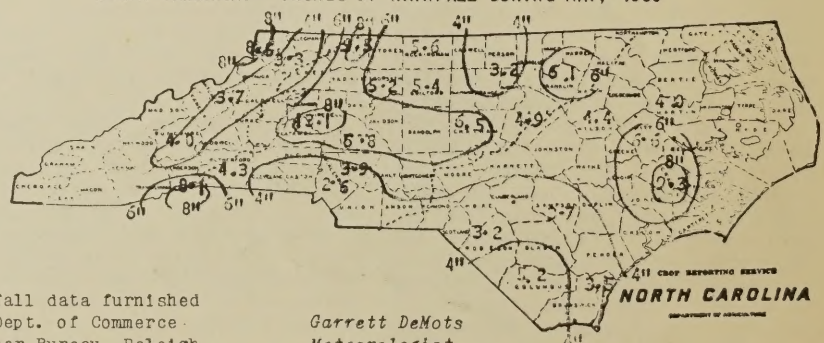
MAY WEATHER SUMMARY

The weather for the month was nearly typical for May. Rainfall came largely in connection with showers. For the month, as a whole, the rainfall was ample, in fact, in some localities such as in Ashe County, the western Piedmont and some coastal areas it was excessive. Because the rainfall resulted largely from shower activity, there were times when isolated areas in the state had a deficiency of moisture. However, there were no widespread extended periods of drouth.

Daily temperatures remained close to normal with but two exceptions. The first week was unseasonably warm and the 20th and 21st were unseasonably cool. Nights were generally cool throughout the month.

Severe hailstorms occurred on several different dates during the month. One of the most severe storms hit the Black Mountain area on the 4th and another hit Rural Hall on the 12th. The hailstones caused heavy damage locally.

NORTH CAROLINA - INCHES OF RAINFALL DURING MAY, 1950



Rainfall data furnished
 By Dept. of Commerce
 Weather Bureau, Raleigh

Garrett DeMots
 Meteorologist

CROP REPORTING SERVICE
 NORTH CAROLINA
 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE